

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12 and 13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 13 is added. No new matter is added.

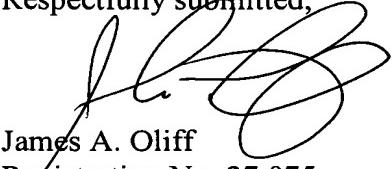
The pending claims are allowable over the references of record, as none of the applied references, disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the claims as amended or the additional claim submitted herewith. For example, a device for controlling an internal combustion engine with a variable valve system wherein, while a piston of the engine descends during an expansion stroke in a cylinder of the engine, an intake valve is opened by the variable valve system for the intake valve such that intake air is supplied into the cylinder from the engine intake system, and pressure in the cylinder is lowered by opening an exhaust valve at an initial stage just after compression top dead center of the expansion stroke by the variable valve system for the exhaust valve and is then closed while in the expansion stroke before said intake valve is opened.

Furthermore, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest the device for controlling an internal combustion engine according to claim 5, wherein while in the 2-stroke operation a valve overlap period is provided and the exhaust valve is closed after the intake valve is opened.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 5-10, 12 and 13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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